



SOLID GROUND, INC.

17955 Eleven Mile Road
Roseville, Michigan 48066

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Website: www.solidgroundinc.org • Email: sgth@sgth.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.

POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT #34

Roseville, MI 48066



Horizon

Fall 2011

For Friends and Supporters of Solid Ground, A Transitional Shelter For The Homeless

Solid Ground Makes Big Changes, Welcomes New ED

Solid Ground is very pleased to welcome Executive Director Jolyne Baarck to the family.

She brings with her more than a decade of experience serving both runaways and homeless youth, enthusiasm and a high level of confidence that she can help further the mission of Solid Ground.

“The structure itself is beautiful,” said Baarck. “And the level of participation by the board, and the commitment of the existing staff and the volunteers is incredible.”

Baarck, who is a licensed masters social worker, is looking forward to working with the clients.

“We need to shift the emphasis so the clients are working toward self-sufficiency,” she said.



Jolyne Baarck

Baarck has served as Program Director for Family Youth Interventions in Mt. Clemens since 2001. There she oversees three facilities: a 30-day shelter for people age 10-17; an 18-month transitional shelter for those age 16-20; and a drop-in center for people age 16-24. She has vast grant writing and fundraising experience.

When Baarck isn't working, she enjoys spending time with her husband of 10 years, Michael Smith, and their two boys Colvin, 8 and Evan 7. The family is active in their church, Trinity Lutheran, and loves fishing and boating.

Baarck also loves to unwind by playing golf. Whenever she has a moment, she sneaks off to the links.

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Our Mission:

To empower the homeless by teaching the life skills necessary to become independent and productive

Thank you!

To everyone who has donated to the cause of Solid Ground, our heartfelt thanks. All individual expressions of gratitude will be printed in the annual report.



We have *so* many exciting things going on at this time of year! Please visit www.solidgroundinc.org to see how you can become a part of our mission to lift up the neediest in our community.

If you would like to have a Solid Ground representative speak at your company or organization, please contact us at sgth@sgth.org or (586) 772-3604.

Spotlight On... New Board Members

Four new board members were welcomed onto the Solid Ground Board of Directors during the annual meeting held on Nov. 5 at St. Lucy Catholic Church.

They include George Eder, Gayla Folsom, Sharon Gwizdowski and Jerry Tsatsos.

Eder is semi-retired and works part time as controller for Michigan Roll Form. His experience in both finance and marketing will be a benefit as he serves as the treasurer and chairs the finance committee. He also happens to be the husband of Board President Joann Eder.

Some may recall the name Folsom from Solid Ground's early days. She served as our very first board president and is pleased to be able to return and help us carry on our mission.

Gwizdowski has been employed with the March of Dimes for more than 39 years. She currently serves as an associate state director. Her passion for serving the homeless and her experience in board leadership, strategic planning and fundraising will be a true asset.

Tsatsos is employed at Clark Graphics. He began Creative Kids Design, an online fundraiser that showcases children's art, along with his special needs daughter, Rachel. He is an assistant leader with Boy Scout Troop 1927. He has already helped with many of our printing projects.

The board also voted to retain Joann Eder as president, Frank Tenkel as vice president, and Pam Carnline as secretary. George Eder will replace Larry Allen as treasurer.

Solid Ground Wish List

Paper Products:
Paper products, including toilet paper, tissues, paper napkins, plates, cups, towels, and personal paper, plastic ware, hygiene items are always straws, 40/30 gallon garbage bags, bowls
Thank you .

Food Items:
Cereal, chicken & beef broth & base, all flavored gravies, pizza sauce, pasta sauce, small pancake mixes and syrup, assorted jam/jelly, peanut butter

Household Items:
Laundry detergent, fabric softener, all cleaning supplies

Other Items:
Large rolls of Saran Wrap and aluminum foil, gallon freezer bags

Personal Hygiene:
Shaving cream, lotion, conditioner, diapers (all sizes), feminine hygiene items

Beverages:
Coffee, tea, juices, juice boxes, Kool-Aid, creamer and sugar, coffee stirrers

Client Needs:
Bus passes, gas cards, grocery gift cards, Target, Wal-Mart, or other stores

Miscellaneous:
Twin waterproof mattress cover, hand towels, pens, copy paper

Clothing: NEW
Children's t-shirts (all sizes), boy's underwear (up to teen), women's underwear (s/m), pajamas (all ages/sizes), thermal under garments (all ages/sizes), baby socks, baby clothing (gently used o.k.)

Furniture:
Trundle/youth beds, 4-5 drawer dressers

We also need **stamps** and **cash** donations.

To volunteer call 586-772-3604.



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Giving Hope & a Future to Homeless Families, Elderly & the Disabled
Please visit our website at <http://www.solidgroundinc.org>.

Jolyne Baarck
Executive Director

Executive Board of Directors 2011-2012

Joann Eder
President

Frank Tenkel
Vice-President

Pam Carnline
Secretary

George Eder
Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Larry Allen
Laura Brodeur-McGeorge
Elizabeth Elie
Gayla Folsom
Holly Fujishige
Sharon Gwizdowski
Michael Nardin
Agenique Smiley
Paul Surmont
Jerry Tsatsos
Cecilia Zelinski

~~~~~  
Doreen "Dee"  
McCardle  
**Founder**

### NEEDED: A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS

If we stop and think about it, most of us have more blessings than we can count. So why not share some of those blessings with others? That doesn't always mean money. It is more often time or talent. We have so many opportunities for our volunteers to come in and work with the families, the children, in the office, in the kitchen...the list is endless. Maybe you would rather work with a committee. There is publishing, fundraising, finance...Call 586-772-3604 and we will find a perfect spot for you.

## What Can I Do To Help?



If you shop at Kroger or Meijer, you can designate that a percentage of your purchase come to Solid Ground. All you need is a Kroger Plus or Meijer 1 card. Kroger donates 5%. Meijer donates 1% and requires you pay by cash, debit card or a Meijer credit card.

Go to the Meijer home page at <http://www.meijer.com/rewards>. The six digit # you need is 583125.

At the bottom, under the Get More column, click on Meijer Community Rewards. Under Meijer Customer, click on Learn More About the Program. Under How do I sign up, click start here. Now you can apply for a Meijer Credit Card, or sign up for a Meijer 1 Card. (Use a debit card or cash for purchases to qualify for cash back to Solid Ground.) Click on Join Now and follow the prompts.

If you don't already have a Kroger

Plus Card, you can download the application online, or go to the store, fill out the form, and ask to be linked to Solid Ground. Our code number is #90331. Just go to the Kroger website at [http://www.kroger.com/mykroger/Pages/community\\_rewards.aspx](http://www.kroger.com/mykroger/Pages/community_rewards.aspx).



If you already have a Kroger Plus card, go to their website and link it to Solid Ground. Go to the website, click on Michigan and follow the prompts. Again, you need to use the code number, 90331.

Another option is to go to [www.magfundraising.com/solidground](http://www.magfundraising.com/solidground) where you can choose from 650 different magazines at up to 85% off newsstand prices, buy a couple of tubs of cookie dough, or purchase restaurant gift cards. All of these items make terrific gifts. Up to 40% of your purchase will be returned to Solid Ground.

## Solid Ground Turns Corner, Makes Changes

In the last two months Solid Ground was able to accomplish an important financial goal and initiate several other path-altering changes.

After nearly two years of operating on a shoestring budget and running in the red, Solid Ground was able to pay a number of accounts it had been carrying and is

about to move into the black. Since opening two and a half years ago, we have helped more than 100 people with shelter. We plan to increase that number in the next 30 months, in part, by increasing our shelter occupancy by 25%. We are altering our

screening procedures to ensure we are identifying clients geared toward success. We also are initiating a job placement program specifically geared toward our residents. A fresh approach is also expected to get our clients into housing and employment in a shorter time frame.

## Your Christmas Gift to Us

Each year during the holiday season we see a generous outpouring of donations from our supporters. Everyone wants the children to have a joyous Christmas morning. In the past, our residents truly benefitted from your generous gifts.


As mentors, however, it is important for us to seize every teachable opportunity.

So this year, when we met with our residents to make up their *Christmas Wish Lists*, we encouraged them to join us as we work to demonstrate fiscal responsibility.

To that end, we are asking our supporters to help all of our residents have an extended holiday season by supplying the



gift of **HEAT**. Donate \$15 or \$25 and we will send you an ornament to hang on your tree. Our residents will stay warm through the winter, we will model responsible financial choices, and you have the genuine satisfaction of truly helping the needy all winter long.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                      |                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Solid Ground</b><br><i>Empowering people who are homeless, or at risk, to achieve and maintain independence.</i><br><b>Mail To:</b><br>17955 11 Mile Rd.<br>Roseville, MI 48066<br><b>Phone:</b><br>586-772-3604<br><b>Email:</b><br>sgth@sgth.org | <b>Donation Form</b> | <br>CFC# 08304 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to pledge \$ _____ monthly.                                                                                                                                                                                     |                      |                                                                                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is a donation in the amount of \$ _____.                                                                                                                                                                            |                      |                                                                                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive my newsletter via email.                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |                                                                                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to donate my professional services.                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |                                                                                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have included Solid Ground in my estate plans.                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |                                                                                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Each month my church/organization will:                                                                                                                                                                                      |                      |                                                                                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide a meal <input type="checkbox"/> Take up an offering                                                                                                                                                                  |                      |                                                                                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place Solid Ground as a line item in our budget.                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |                                                                                                     |
| Name _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                      |                                                                                                     |
| Address: _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                      |                                                                                                     |
| City _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | State _____          | Zip _____ E-mail _____                                                                              |

## Solid Ground's Annual

# Christmas Dinner



**FREE!**  
**Santa**  
**Door Prizes**  
**Entertainment**  
**Gifts for Children**  
**Gently Used Clothing**  
**New Underwear & Socks**  
**Goodie-Bags with Toiletries**  
**Miscellaneous Gifts for Everyone**  
**Turkey Dinner with the Fixins', Dessert**



We are accepting donations of gently used coats, gloves, scarves, boots and clothing, and **NEW** socks and undergarments to be distributed during our annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday, Dec. 25 from 2-5 p.m. at the Masonic Center, 27151 Gratiot in Roseville.

**If you would like to donate or volunteer, call 586-772-3604.**



## Third Annual Three Alarm Chili Cook-Off

For the second time in three years, Larry Allen claimed the coveted *People's Choice Award* at the Three Alarm Chili Cook-Off. Pastor Allen represented Warren Woods Baptist Church and offered two versions of his chili. The first was called Flamalicious and appealed to those with a sturdy palate. The second was called Sissylicious and was better suited to those with more delicate taste buds. Other participants included Solid Ground, St. Lucy Catholic Church, Chesterfield Lions Club, Boy Scouts Troop 1927, Macomb County Sheriff's Mounted Division, Detroit Fire Department—Engines 52 & 57, City of Roseville, and Brave Dave's Salsa. The 10 cooks raised \$1,100.

## Second Annual Homeless 365 Walk-a-thon

On a cold, dreary, damp day in early fall, dozens and dozens of dedicated supporters of Solid Ground turned out to raise public awareness of homelessness while raising money for the shelter.

The second annual Homeless 365 Walk-a-thon on Oct. 1 began at Solid Ground, traveled north on Gratiot Avenue to Common Road and back.



In total, the event raised \$4,700.